

## Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 VO-03 L-02

/037 W

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R 190605Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4970

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, OR, IS

SUBJ: JEWISH REFUGEE MIGRANTS EX USSR

REFS: (A) STATE 266116; (B) TEL AVIV 7116

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS SUPPLIED BY MINISTRY  
OF INTERIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL JEHUDIT  
HEUBNER IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL (A).

2. AS BACKGROUND, MRS HEUBNER NOTED THAT ISRAEL  
CITIZENSHIP IS AUTOMATICALLY CONFERRED UNDER LAW  
OF RETURN TO JEWS UPON IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL.  
AMENDMENT TO LAW OF RETURN THREE YEARS AGO ALSO  
CONFERS CITIZENSHIP TO NON-JEWISH MEMBERS OF A  
FAMILY AS LONG AS ONE MEMBER (MOTHER, FATHER, OR  
GRANDPARENT) IS OR WAS JEWISH, REGARDLESS OF  
WHETHER THAT PERSON ALSO IMMIGRATED TO ISRAEL.  
RE DEPARTMENT'S QUESTIONS:

3. WHEN AND BY WHOM ARE SOVIET JEWS INFORMED THAT  
GOI CONSIDERS THEM TO BE ISRAELI CITIZENS?  
MRS HEUBNER WAS NOT SURE EXACTLY WHAT INFORMATION  
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IS MADE AVAILABLE BY DUTCH EMBASSY IN MOSCOW WHEN

ISSUING VISAS. IN VIENNA, SOVIET IMMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL ARE PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP BY A JEWISH AGENCY OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO ACT ON BEHALF OF GOI INTERIOR MINISTRY. THAT PERSON ALSO RECORDS ENTRY INTO POPULATION REGISTRY. MRS HEUBNER ADDED THAT IMMIGRANTS MAY NOT ALWAYS FULLY UNDERSTAND EXPLANATION CONCERNING CITIZENSHIP.

4. IS ANY AFFIRMATIVE ACT REQUIRED? IMMIGRANTS DO NOT TAKENY AFFIRMATIVE ACT, BUT AS STATED ABOVE THEY ACQUIRE CITIZENSHIP AUTOMATICALLY UPON ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL.

5. IS ANY EVIDENCE REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH THAT SUCH PERSONS ARE JEWS? MRS HEUBNER WAS NOT SURE WHAT DOCUMENTATION OR EVIDENCE IS REQUIRED BY DUTCH EMBASSY IN MOSCOW. IN VIENNA ORAL STATEMENTS ARE ACCEPTED AS WEL AS ANY DOCUMENTATION THAT THE IMMIGRANT MAY WISH TO PRESENT. IN SOME CASES, SHE NOTED, THE DESIGNATION HEBREW IS INDICATED ON RUSSIAN LAISSEZ PASSERS.

6. ARE THESE PERSONS ACCORDED THE OPTION TO ELECT NOT TO ACCEPT ISRAELI NATIONALITY WITHIN THREE-MONTH LIMIT ACCORDED TO OTHER JEWS WHO BECOME RESIDENTS OF ISRAEL? IF SO, ARE THEY INFORMED THIS OPTION EXISTS? OPTION NOT TO ACCEPT ISRAELI NATIONALITY IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE ANOTHER CITIZENSHIP. SINCE SOVIET CITIZENS NORMALLY LOSE THEIR CITIZENSHIP AUTOMATICALLY UPON EMIGRATION, THIS OPTION IS NORMALLY NOT AVAILABLE TO THEM. IN A FEW CASES, HOWEVER, SOVIET EMIGRANTS POSSESS SOVIET PASSPORTS AND HAVE APPARENTLY NOT LOST THEIR SOVIET CITIZENSHIP. SHE SAID THAT NOT MORE THAN ONE-TWO PERCENT HAVE RUSSIAN PASSPORTS AND DID NOT KNOW WHY THEY WERE TREATED DIFFERENTLY.

7. ARE NON-JEWS ON ARRIVAL FROM USSR INFORMED THEY ARE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE CITIZENS OF ISRAEL? LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YES. ONLY THREE-FOUR NON-JEWISH FAMILIES ARRIVE PER YEAR AND IN ALL CASES THEY INDICATE THAT THEY ARE NOT JEWISH.

8. ARE THEY PROVIDED INFORMATION RE NATURALIZATION? YES. UPON ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL THEY ARE TOLD THAT AFTER THREE YEARS PERMANENT RESIDENCE THEY CAN APPLY FOR ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP. THREE-YEAR PERIOD CAN BE

REDUCED IN SPECIAL CASES BY INTERIOR MINISTRY.

9. DOES THE GOI ISSUE ID CARDS OR OTHER DOCUMENTS TO SOVIET REFUGEES WHICH CONTAIN NOTATION OF CITIZENSHIP STATUS? NO. ISRAELI ID CARDS DO NOT INDICATE ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP. IN THE CASE OF HEWS, THEY INDICATE JEWISH. FOR NON-JEWS, THEY INDICATE NATIONAL OR ETHNIC BACKGROUND, SUCH AS ARAB, ENGLISH, FRENCH, RUSSIAN, ETC. IN CASE OF RUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS, ID CARD FOR JEWISH MEMBER OF FAMILY WOULD INDICATE JEWISH, WHILE ID CARD FOR NON-JEWISH MEMBERS, ALTHOUGH ISRAELI CITIZENS UNDER LAW OF RETURN, WOULD INDICATE RUSSIAN.

10. ARE EXCEPTIONS MADE TO GENERAL PRACTICE OF ISSUING LAISSEZ PASSERS TO ISRAELI CITIZENS WITH LESS THAN ONE YEAR RESIDENCE AND PASSPORTS TO ALL OTHERS? YES. MRS HEUBNER CLARIFIED THAT ARTICLE TWO OF PASSPORT LAW PROVIDES THAT IN "SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES" LAISSER PASSER MAY BE ISSUED TO PERSON WITH OVER ONE YEAR RESIDENCE AND PASSPORT MAY BE ISSUED TO PERSON WITH LESS THAN ONE YEAR RESIDENCE, IF THEY SO REQUEST. SHE CITED, AS EXAMPLE, LONG-TIME ISRAELI CITIZEN GOING ABROAD FOR SHORT PERIOD AND NOT WANTING TO PAY COST OF PASSPORT MAY RECEIVE LAISSEZ PASSER. MRS HEUBNER SAID THAT RELATIVELY FEW PEOPLE EXERCISE OPTION PROVIDED BY ARTICLE TWO.

11. INFORMATION ON REPAYMENT OF LOANS REPORTED REFTL (B). MRS HEUBNER STATED THAT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR MERELY NOTIFIES ABSORPTION MINISTRY OF REQUEST FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENT BY ANY ISRAELI IMMIGRANT WITH LESS THAN THREE YEARS RESIDENCE, BUT TRAVEL DOCUMENT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISSUED. COLLECTION OF ANY RESETTLEMENT LOANS ARE HANDLED BY ABSORPTION MINISTRY.  
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## Message Attributes

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